



**Gunnison County, CO**  
**Community Development Department**  
221 N. Wisconsin St. Ste. D, Gunnison, CO 81230  
Phone: (970) 641-0360 FAX: (970) 641-8585  
Website: [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org)  
Email: [planning@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:planning@gunnisoncounty.org)

## **Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee – Memo**

**To:** U.S. Forest Service, Gunnison Ranger District

**From:** Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee

**Date:** December 17, 2020

**Subject:** Endorsement of Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association's Short Term Trail Plan for Scoping

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### **Summary**

The Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) has been working for many years to refine the Short Term Trail Plan – *Riders Off the Road*. This plan represents a 5-8-year road map that was formed over many years through collaborative efforts and public, stakeholder, and agency input.

CBMBA presented this plan to the Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee in June of 2020 and again in December 2020. At the June meeting, the STOR Committee provided input that helped shape the version of the plan that was presented in December. This plan places emphasis on values that are important to the STOR Committee: stewardship of natural resources, enhanced public access, consideration of user safety, and an improved user experience, especially for novice recreators. The proposed trail connections and reroutes will connect existing trails, realign non-sustainable routes, and designate proper trail access points.

### **STOR Committee Recommendation**

The STOR Committee, via a unanimous vote at its December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, endorsed a recommendation to the Gunnison Ranger District to accept the Riders Off the Road Trail Plan (v4.5 – 12.10.2020), with the exclusion of the Snodgrass Public Trail and Eccher/Granite Basin Trails, for scoping in NEPA. The Committee recommends to the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize the proposed trail alignments outlined in the plan in recreation management decisions, including the timely initiation of a NEPA scoping process. The priority trails include:

1. Lake Irwin Parallel Trail
2. Rustler Gulch to Lower #401 Reroute
3. Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead
4. Strand Bonus to Trail #409
5. Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City
6. Deer Creek to Brush Creek Trailhead
7. Teocalli Extension to Brush Creek Road
8. Trail #405.2a/3a Reroute
9. Reno Road Parallel Trail
10. Cement Creek Trail – Upper CCT to Crystal
11. Cement Creek Trail – Lower CCT to Caves Trail
12. Bear Creek Reroute
13. Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike Reroute

The STOR Committee declined to include in its recommendation two trails identified in the Riders off the Road Trail Plan: Snodgrass Public Trail (#2) and Eccher/Granite Basin Trail (#13(a), (b), (c)).

### **About the STOR Committee**

The STOR Committee is a community coalition, created by the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners to improve and maintain tourism and outdoor recreation in a manner that is sustainable (environmentally, socially, and financially) and aligns with community values. The committee is structured to be a wide-ranging group that acts thoughtfully, efficiently, and proactively to address negative impacts and develops unique approaches to create a sustainable tourism economy and outdoor recreation experience while preserving the natural resources of Gunnison County.

The STOR Committee is comprised of nineteen regular members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Committee is represented by land management agencies, towns and municipalities, non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, and other sectors of the community. According to the Committee charter, each nominating entity shall empower their nominee to represent the entity and to make decisions and recommendations on behalf of their entity. Appointed members must have the authority, to the maximum extent feasible, to vote on issues before the Committee without having to seek counsel from their nominating entity. The STOR Committee serves an important purpose in creating a forum to prioritize projects, leverage resources, and maximize impact.

Signed:

Chris Parmeter, Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic  
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike  
Association  
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic  
John Norton, Tourism and Prosperity Partnership  
Kevin Alexander, Wildlife and Fisheries  
Representative

Kimberly Schappert, Public At-large  
Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison  
Matt Reed, High Country Conservation Advocates  
Mona Merrill, Town of Crested Butte  
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mt. Crested Butte  
Steve Guerrieri, Gunnison County Stockgrowers  
Association  
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails